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CURSORY
BUT
CURIOUS OBSERVATIONS
OF

Mr. Ab-1 R--er,

Upon a late

Famous PAMPHLET,

ENTITLED,

REMARKS

ON THE

Preliminary Articles

Offer'd by the F. K. in hopes to
procure a

GENERAL PEACE.

L O N D O N :

Printed for JOHN MORPHEW near Stationers-
Hall, 1711. (Price 3 d.)

C U R S O R Y

B U T

Critique OBSERVATIONS

O F

Mr. Ab-J-R-er

Upon a late

Emmons Pamphlet

ENTITLED

R E M A R K S



Preliminary Articles

Ordered by the H. C. in hopes to
procure a

GENERAL PEACE

L O N D O N

Printed by J. G. Smith, near St. Martin's
(Price 1 sh.)

SIR,

I Have not indeed the Fortune to be personally known to you, yet since you are pleas'd in your Remarks to take some notice of me, and dignifie me with an Epichet, not much inferior to those, you are so often pleas'd to confer upon the most Renown'd Princes, you will not be surpriz'd at the Receipt of a Letter to acknowledge the Favour you have done me.

But, Sir, That you may not value your self too much upon your being able to call me from the Publick Service, I solemnly declare to you, had I been left to my self, you had never heard My Opinion of your late Performance.

It was on *Wednesday* last, when one of my Servants came to me, as I was taking my Chocolate with a worthy Member of the *October-Club*, and disposing Affairs for the next Session, and whisper'd me, that a certain great Lord, whose Name I am desir'd to conceal, pray'd the Favour of a Word with me. I excus'd my self to my Friend, and immediately went to the Cabinet in my North Apartment, where I found his L---p under the utmost Concern. After some little Apology he told me, the Affair he was come about was of the last Consequence, that there was a virulent Pamphlet just publish'd, in which my Honour and Reputation was attempted; that, as he knew the preserving my Character entire, wou'd be of infinite Service to the Interest I have so long espoused, and so nobly defended, he hop'd I wou'd not think it beneath me to do a piece of Justice to my self in the most open manner.

Perhaps

Perhaps I might have got the better of this Importunity, had not a Letter in that Instant arriv'd from a Reverend Prelate, earnestly beseeching me, if I had any Love or Regard for the Church of *England*, to set my self right, and vindicate my Fame in an Answer to your Remarks.

And thus, Sir, was I prevail'd upon; Your ill Usage of me cou'd never have moved me, tho' 'tis evident in what an insolent manner you have treated both me and the King of *France*. Pag. 7. The French King's *Insincerity*; pag. 16. *Roper tells us*, and ditto, *Prostituted Scribler*, and in the next Paragraph, his Majesty is *Perfidious, and breaks all Oaths, &c.* in p. 21. I am call'd *Abel*, without the least respect to the Station I bear in the present M---y.

I grant you, Sir, you call'd me learned *Abel*, but 'tis in such a manner, as I am confident you make a Ridicule of my Parts and Learning.

But such is the Partiality of the debas'd Age we live in, that one side shall be allow'd their *Adversaries*, their *Stables*, and their *Garths*; when, if the other presume to make use of their *Privileges*, their *Swiftness*, or their *Resources*, they are immediately decry'd, and branded for *Prostituted Scriblers*.

However, Sir, give one of these Prostitutes leave to examine your Remarks, and perhaps you may not think me so contemptible. And,

First, Sir, I wou'd ask you why you are so over-joy'd at your setting out, that the King of *France* professes a *Willingness* to a Peace, when in p. 14. you are sure he is no *Slave to his Word*, and 'tis therefore impossible to treat with him. Perhaps it is, because it *shews what he is reduced to*; but then, Sir, if this *Willingness*, shou'd at last come to *No Willingness*, and it would have been a better Proof of his *Willingness*, had he propos'd the
Old

Old Preliminaries, I can't see what it is that overjoys you. Are you glad you have reason, as you say you have, to believe he intends to trifle, and only play the old Game over again? This is impossible, because Page ditto, you heartily wish he had propos'd the Old Prelim. Art. You are sure then Matters wou'd have been conducted to a happy Issue.

But, Sir, e'er I go on with you, let me observe to you your strong Reason for the F. K——'s *Insincerity*, and it is, because you observe to your great surprise his Most Christian Majesty *rises in his Demand, talks stout,* and insists upon ten to one more than he did in the Old Prelim. and therefore it must follow, according to your Logick, that he can't possibly be willing at Heart, to make Peace with us upon these New Prelim.

But besides this, you are at a stand to know what he means, when he promises all that is in his Power, no

one can *understand* what he wou'd be at, however you, Sir, within a Line or two after *suppose* he means so and so. Now, Sir, if you'll be so kind to your self, as to apply a little of that Reason that helpt you to your supposition, to your Understanding, 'tis an even Wager but you find out what he means.

The first Article of the New Preliminaries dislikes you, because of the great difference betwixt that, and the 15th of the Old Preliminaries.

Now for difference.

Old, 15. King of France shall acknowledge the Succession of the Crown of Great Britain in the Protestant Line. New, will acknowledge. Old, Crown of G. B. New, Queen of G. B. Old, as it is settled by Act of Parliament. New, according to the present Settlement. Now, Sir, whatever difference you have Remark'd, depend upon it, if the Words of the New are too weak to hold his Majesty, those of the Old are not

not sufficiently strong. Hence I remark,
 That in *page* 1. one Trifle can please
 you, and in *page* 12. another displease
 you. But this difference ought not to
 be term'd, a Nicety ; for in *France* you
 tell us, what we call the *present Settle-*
ment, is by some thought *no Settlement*.
 Now, Sir, can we possibly help the
French Partizans thinking different from
 us? or must not we call it, what it is,
 because some People imagine it to be,
 what it is not? If you have any private
 Reason to believe the *French* King will
 think better of the Settlement, accor-
 ding to *Act of Parliament*, if it be not
 too late, we will get it alter'd for you.
 But why, Sir, cannot *present Settlement*
 go down? To this you'l answer, very
 closely, that you know a Set of Fel-
 lows, that deny all Laws to be valid
 which have been made since the Revo-
 lution, and who it was that acknow-
 ledg'd Her Majesties Power and Autho-
 rity, as declar'd by a *Statute in the 12th*
of Her Royal Uncle. Whence one may
 infer,

infer, that, that Person by quoting a Statute made so many Years before the Revolution, is a *French Partizan*, and one who denies the validity of all Laws since.

Sir, I cou'd never yet perceive any great harm in that Statute. Sure I am, if a certain body will but peruse it, he will no more revile her Majesty, and her Administration, but learn an Obedience, which he has hitherto been a stranger to.

But while you are in this concern, or rather making your *nice Reflections*, you wonder 3dly and 4thly, why this is not done, and that is not done; and in short, why the Preliminary Articles to a Peace, do not intirely inform you how the Peace is to be made, in respect to the Pretences of the several Allies? And yet, Sir, will you as confidently call it a scandalous Peace, as if you were assur'd you knew how it was to be managed, as well as you do the F. K--'s Secrets, his *willingness* and *unwillingness*.

Your

Your next wish is, that the *French* King in the second Article of the New, had spoke in the words of the 6th of the Old Preliminaries. To consent *bona fide*, is nothing, *just* and *reasonable*, you can't tell what to make of it, and therefore this second Article is much too narrow. Whereas in the 6th of the Old Preliminaries, it is stipulated (and agreed to by one side) that *France* sha'n't have an Inch of the *Spanish* Monarchy, nay nor any Prince of the House of *France*. This indeed may be true, but I don't find in this 6th Article, that his Majesty would oblige himself to take all just and reasonable Measures to bring this to pass. Wherefore I really believe, when he promises in the 2d Article of the New Preliminaries, *bona fide*, to take all just and reasonable Measures to prevent an Union of the Crowns of *Spain* and *France*, that the words *Just* and *Reasonable* have a very good meaning. But let them mean what they will, *We* must understand what they signifie before

fore they'l do any good. Nor would you have show'd your self so much afraid of two words, had not your Prejudice run away with your Pen. *Cæsar* (who by the by) cou'd write Pamphlets, without being call'd a *prostituted Scribler*) assures us, *animus nihil valet*, unless altogether free from Hatred, Rage, and Friendship, *ab odio, ira, &c.*

When you come to the 4th Article you are struck all on a heap to find nothing but words, as if some of your Old Art. were composed of somewhat better, or that you had discovered a new Method of making Peace, in which Oaths and Promises were to have no hand, because they had done so much harm in a Collection of Treaties, printed 1710. by one *J. Darby* for *Andrew Bell*.

In the 6th of the New, the *French King* prevaricates, and every body sees through it, which last I deny; for I know a certain Great Man that talk'd
over

over this Article with Monsieur Mes-
nager, that try'd all he cou'd to see
through it, but cou'd not do it. But
why does the *French* King prevaricate so
scandalously? Is it not because when
he says, he'l demolish *Dunkirk*, he
does not promise he will not rebuild
it? But the Old Prelim. was aware of
Diruit Ædificat, and tyed him down
close.

In this Article you are so kind as
to give us an Account of an *infamous*
Treaty Our King *Charles* the Second
made with the *French* King, when
Dunkirk was delivered up to him, and
to put us in mind, how some People
with equal Modesty, can impute In-
famy to one King, as others can, Felo-
ny to another. Pray, Sir, are you
determin'd nothing shall separate Our
King? if you are, I positively declare
after *Charles* the Second, I'll add *glo-*
rious Memory, and slit any Mans Nose
that w'on't drink to it. Nay, Sir, I'll have
a Toast more strongly worded, than
that

that lately drunk to a pious Divine in *Ireland*. But to your Question, Why does the King of *France* demand Money for *Dunkirk*? Sir, if you are resolved that the word Equivalent shall signifie Money, as you seem to be, and that Money, *Dutch Money*; I can give you no answer. But I would willingly think it easy enough, for the word Equivalent to signifie Towns with Fortifications, Castles and Canons. If this can be, and the *French* King cou'd have any thing like this in his Head, why then I know who can better furnish out the Equivalent than the *English*. Otherwise the *French* King must doat strangely in his old Age, when he affirms, after what we have given for *Bouchain*, that we can't furnish out an Equivalent for a Town.

In the 7th Article of the New Preliminary, he promises at the General Conference, all the Pretences of the several Allies shall be discuss'd *bonâ fide*.

side. But this Article you think too large, as you did the 2d too narrow, which calls to my Remembrance the Apothegm of a right Reverend Prelate: Some are too young, and some too old, and so we shall have no body hang'd.

In this Section you have two Reasons why you are positive the F. K. is at his prevarications again. For does not *Charles VI.* Emperor, pretend to be *Charles the Third King of all Spain*; and are not his Pretences fair? And how will they be complied with? To your shrewd Question I answer, I am not certain, what may be pretended, but certain I am, that *Charles the Sixth*, the present Emperor, does not know one word of what the Allies promised *Charles the Third*. The present Emperor was then out of the way, nor cou'd *Charles the Third* find him, any more than he can now, the Kingdom he is looking after.

And

And now at last we are arriv'd at what will most gravel his Christian Majesty, and that is, how to be able to come off fairly, when he shall know Her Majesty's Pretences to the whole Crown of *France*, and that it certainly belongs to us, by reason of three or four Golden *Fleur de Lys* which the British Monarchs have for some Years past given for their Arms.

This truly, if the King be in earnest, will be a fly Stroak, for a hundred to one, if he does not think that *France* is his, and that we shaln't offer to alledge our fair Pretences, and pop our *Fleur des Lys* upon him. Beside, you are so kind as to help us at a dead Lift, (shou'd he talk to us of a Salick Law,) and to instruct us, to enquire after the Salick Law of *Spain*. But, Sir, upon second Thoughts, I fancy, shou'd we ask him why the same Law was not in both Kingdoms, he wou'd tell us, because in one Govern-

vernment a Man wou'd have a Staff and a Pair of Shoes sent him, shou'd he offer to revile the State, by printing his infamous Remarks, when in another, he might pass for a Patriot, which is an Argument that *Holland* and *England* differ in their Laws, as well as *Spain* and *France*.

But your last Comfort, I suppose, is, that because the Parliament declar'd, and does declare, they will have all *Spain* for the House of *Austria*, no one will dare to keep Company in publick with Monsieur *De B——ys*, unless it be when he talks of redoubling the Forces.

Since, Sir, I have been so complaisant as to let *Equivalent* signifie *Dutch* Money, pray let *Parliament* signifie *functio*, and then a Pin for their Declarations.

A little before you talk of concluding, you wou'd not have People think *Nullum tempus occurrit Regi* too much of

of a Jest. As to my own Opinion, I protest I don't make a Jest of it, I really had it from an honest old Gentleman-like Lawyer of the *Inner-Temple*, that was never much given to jesting, though perhaps he, or his Chaplain, cou'd have found one, for any one that wou'd have dar'd to have disputed the Truth of this Maxim; whether it can be serviceable to the French K—— to make a Jest, or no Jest of it, I cannot yet judge. Sure I am, if it be a Jest to any among us, 'tis to those only, who made the Old Prelim. Art. too much a Jest, and the Nation too long their Fools.

And now, Sir, I shall make my Bow, assuring you, in short, that I am confidently persuaded, it is not intended to give the Lyon's Share to the Dog in the Fable; and that, if you go on to grumble against a Peace, only because you cannot have your own Friend to make it, I will compare you
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in my first publick Paper to a half-witted Fellow, who chose to go naked, because his old Taylor was taken up for a Pick-Pocket, and could work no longer for him.

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